MARVEL
ONE-SHOT
1

WHAT IF? SPIDER-MAN HOUSE OF M

McKEEVER with ROSS TIERI SCOTT HABERLIN FLEMING

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There exist parallel worlds beyond our own. Within these worlds, each living being faces turning points in their existence, and a choice must be made at every one of these points—choices that will affect their own destinies, and perhaps that of their world or even the universe itself. Call it the "road not taken"—the chance missed, the decision deferred...of what might have been, what could have happened—but for the invisible workings of an incomprehensible fate. Call it...

WHAT IF? SPIDER-MAN HOUSE OF M

WHAT IF...GWEN STACY SURVIVED THE HOUSE OF M?

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Painted by – Dan Scott (pgs 3-21) & Tom Fleming (pgs 1-2)

WHAT IF...SPIDER-MAN INTERVENED FOR THE SCARLET WITCH?

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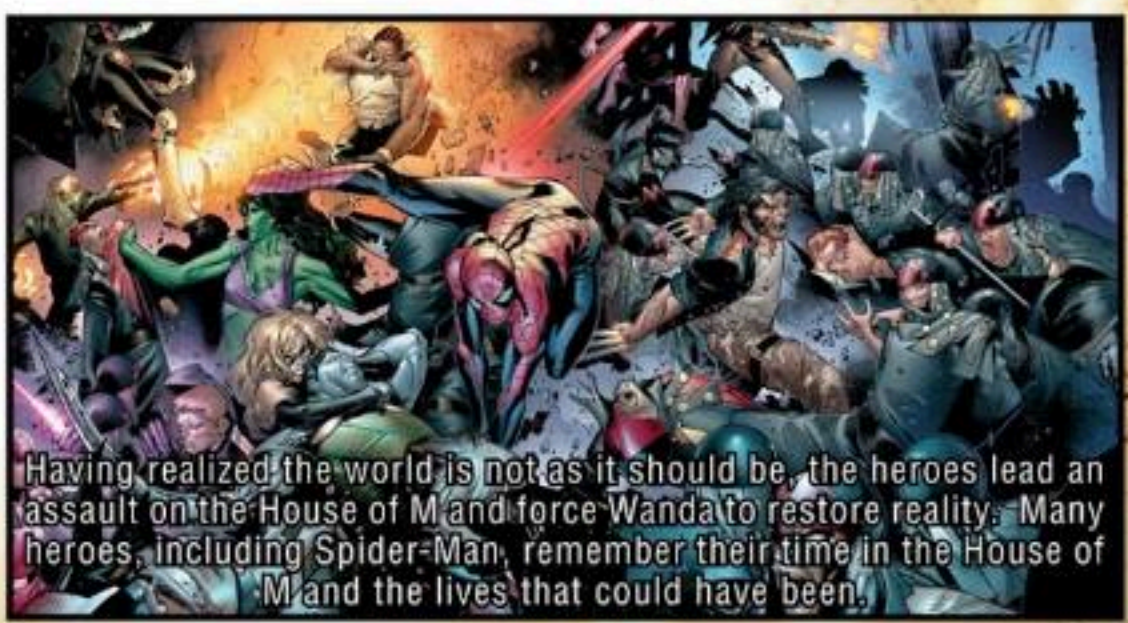
PREVIOUSLY...

Driven insane by her mutant abilities, Wanda Maximoff -- the Scarlet Witch -- alters reality into a world where mutants rule under the leadership of the House of M...

...and Peter Parker enjoys the life of a super hero celebrity alongside his family -- his (not-dead) wife Gwen Stacy, son Richie, his Aunt May and his (also not-dead) Uncle Ben.

Forced to disguise his abilities as those of a mutant, Spider-Man's human origins are revealed when his journal is obtained by Peter's publicist, the vindictive J. Jonah Jameson.

With no other options in order to protect his family from anti-human violence, Peter fakes Spider-Man's death and retires to the country with his family.



Having realized the world is not as it should be, the heroes lead an assault on the House of M and force Wanda to restore reality. Many heroes, including Spider-Man, remember their time in the House of M and the lives that could have been.

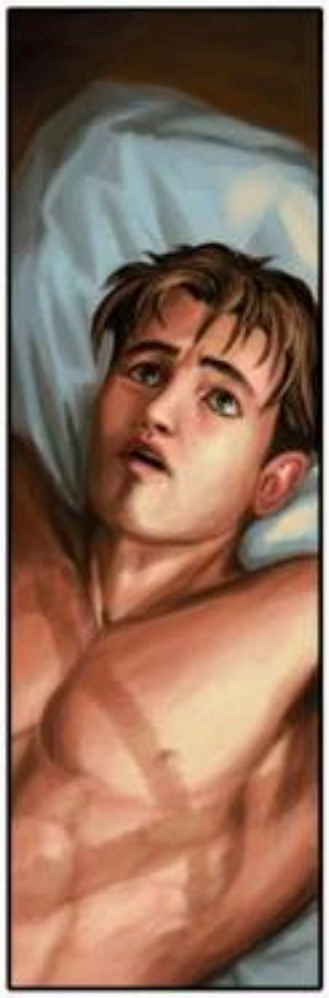
BUT WHAT IF...

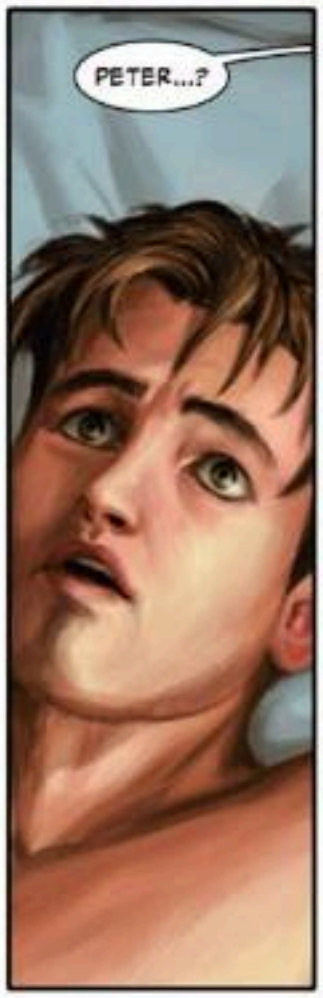
THE LIFE WE KNEW IS ALL BUT GONE.
NO MORE CITY LIFE.
NO MORE BIOCHEMISTRY, NO MORE BUSINESS EMPIRE, NO MORE CELEBRITY...
NO MORE SPIDER-MAN.

I KNOW THIS ISN'T FOREVER. I KNOW WE'LL BE GOING BACK TO THE CITY SOON.
BUT IF ALL THAT WAS OVER, THIS RIGHT HERE, THIS WOULD BE ALL WE'D NEED. EACH OTHER.

AS TERRIBLE AS IT IS TO CONSIDER...
...EVEN IF WE LOST *EVERYTHING*, I KNOW THAT IF WE STILL HAD EACH OTHER, WE'D FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE.
I LOVE YOU, PETER.

BUT NOT EVEN LOVE CAN WITHSTAND THE STRICTURES OF REALITY...OR CAN IT?
WITH PETER'S MEMORIES OF THE WORLD AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE RESTORED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A KINDNESS FOR EMMA FROST TO MAKE GWEN STACY-PARKER FORGET WHAT SHE'D JUST WITNESSED...
...BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE. WITHOUT HESITATION, SCOTT SUMMERS IMPLORED EMMA TO LET GWEN'S MIND BE...
...ALLOWING HER TO OVERHEAR THE HEROES' INTENT TO GO FIRST TO THE OFFICES OF DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE...
STEPHEN STRANGE
Psy. D
...AND THEN TO THE ISLAND NATION OF GENOSHA DURING ITS CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE. GWEN SPARED NO EXPENSE TO TRAVEL THERE IMMEDIATELY. SHE HAD TO FIND PETER...
...WHICH SHE DID--LOCKED IN BATTLE AGAINST THE GENOSHAN ROYAL GUARD FOR THE FATE OF THIS WARPED REALITY MAGNETO'S DAUGHTER HAD CREATED.
WITH PETER AT DEATH'S DOOR, GWEN SAW NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO BE AT HIS SIDE IN THAT FINAL MOMENT.
BUT THEN THE SCARLET WITCH SPOKE:
NO MORE MUTANTS.
AND SO...




PETER...?

WHAT IS IT, TIGER? SOMETHING'S ON YOUR MIND.

IT'S...
I'M FINE, MARY JANE. JUST A LITTLE GROGGY.

IT'S NOT FINE!
WHAMM
PETER?
I REMEMBER. I REMEMBER EVERYTHING. GWEN... UNCLE BEN...THEY WERE ALIVE AGAIN, AND NOW...
GOD... I HAD A SON...
SO...UM, SO EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL NOW, RIGHT?
NO...
NOT QUITE.
NOT...
DOCTOR STRANGE!
DO YOU NEED TO SEE A...A DOCTOR, OR...?
PETER...
I NEED...
...I NEED TO BE AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
OKAY THEN...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE, PETER?

IT'S MANHATTAN, I KNOW THAT, BUT...

...NONE OF THE NUMBERS IN MY CELL PHONE ARE WORKING. OUR HOME ISN'T WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. AND...

NO MORE MUTANTS. LIKE THAT WOMAN SAID.

WHAT DID SHE DO TO US? LAST I REMEMBER WE WERE IN GENOSHA AND YOU WERE FIGHTING AND NOW...

WHERE'S OUR FAMILY, PETER? WHERE ARE YOU?

THIS CAN'T BE REALITY, CAN IT?

I MEAN, IF IT WAS, THEN THIS BUILDING WOULDN'T BELONG TO KRONAS CORP. IT WOULD BE--

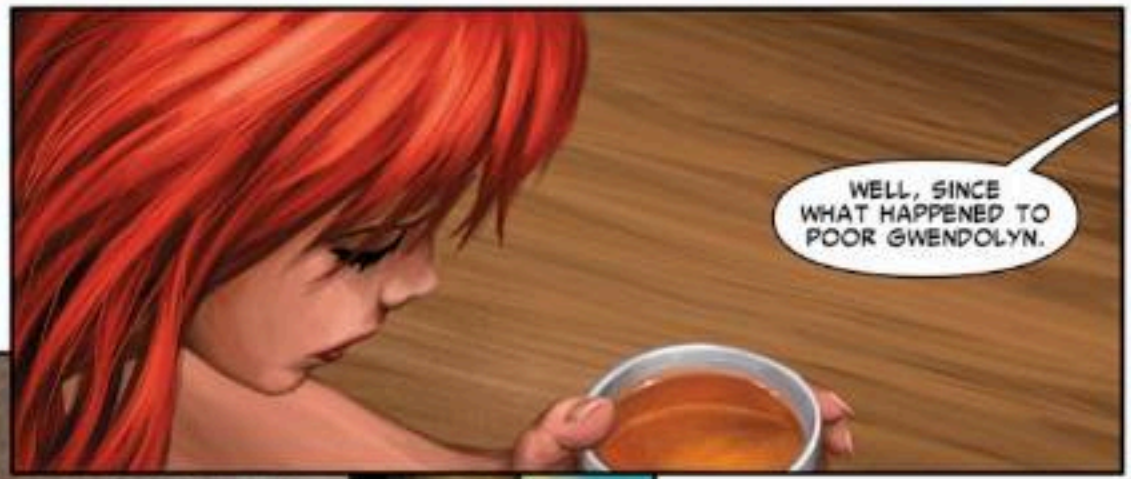
OSBORN
NCORPORATED

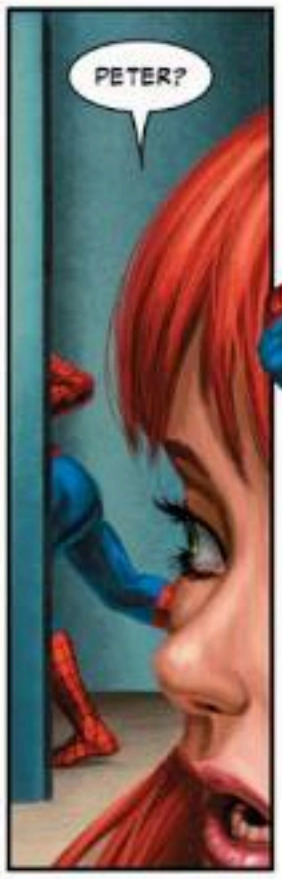
OSBORN--

--INCORPORATED...?

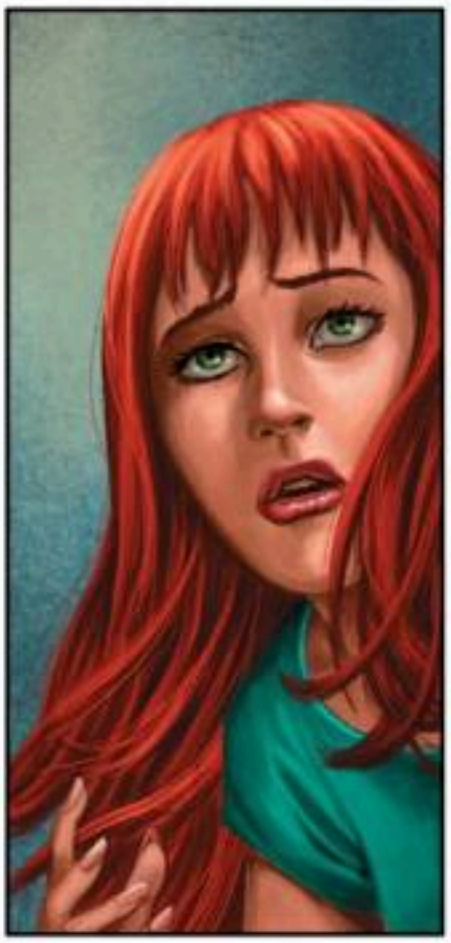
IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D THINK SOMEONE DIED.

SURE, HE'LL CRACK A JOKE NOW AND THEN LIKE USUAL, BUT IT'S JUST A COVER.
MY BAG OF TRICKS IS EMPTY, MAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACH HIM.
I KNOW, DEAR. HE HAS BEEN DESPONDENT. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LIKE THIS SINCE...


WELL, SINCE WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR GWENDOLYN.


PETER?

PETER! PLEASE, WOULD YOU JUST--
SORRY, MJ. AVENGERS ALERT.
PROBABLY JUST ARMAGEDDON, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW, IT COULD BE SOMETHING SERIOUS.



WATCH OUT!

WE COULD SURE USE YOU HERE, SPIDER-MAN, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT *UP* TO THIS--

NO, I'LL BE FINE, CAP. I MEAN I *AM* FINE--

HEY NOW!

PETE.

YES, DEN MOTHER LOGAN. I GOT A *LITTLE* BIT *DISTRACTED* BACK THERE. WON'T HAPPEN *AGAIN*, 'KAY?

PETE...

...BEIN' MOROSE, TRYIN' TO PLAY IT OFF LIKE IT'S NO BIG WHOOP, IT *AIN'T CUTE*.

WHAT YOU KEPT FROM THAT "*HOUSE OF M*" WORLD-- WHAT WE ALL KEPT? WE GOTTA GET *PAST* IT. WE *GOTTA* LET IT GO.

BUT WHAT IF I CAN'T? WHAT IF...

WHAT IF, IN SPITE OF THE PAIN IT BRINGS ME, I DON'T *WANT* IT TO GO AWAY?

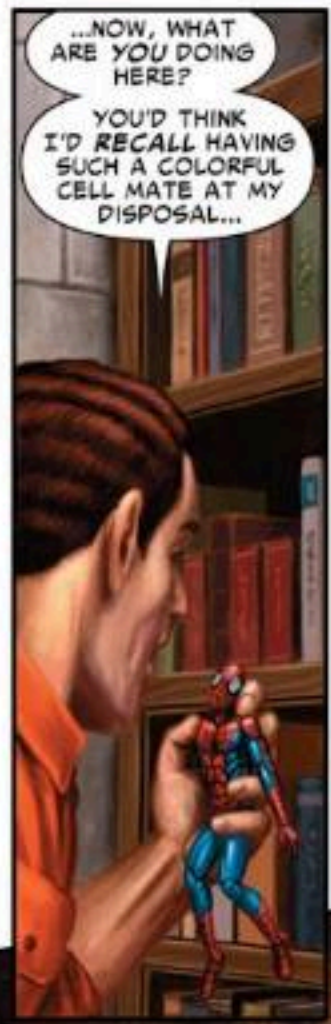
I *GET* WHAT YER SAYIN', PETE, BUT IT DON'T MATTER.

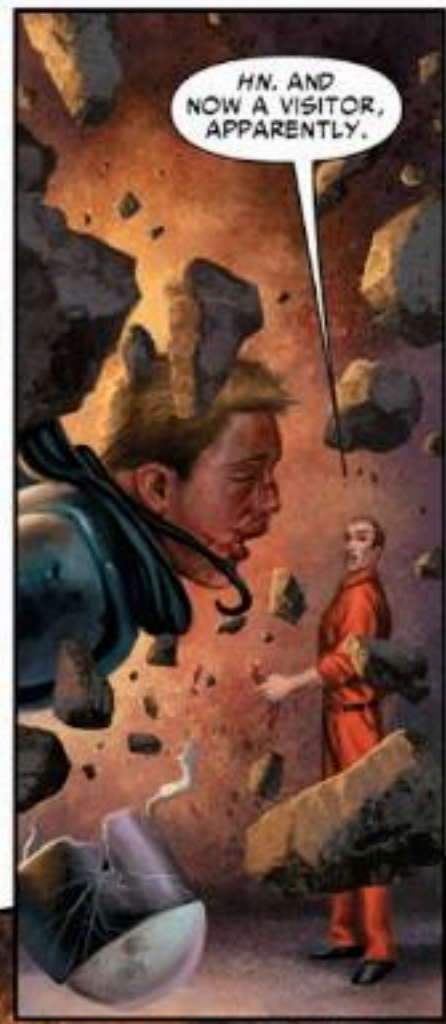
THAT STUFF IN YER HEAD DON'T *BELONG* THERE. *NEVER* DID. AN' IF *THAT* AIN'T REASON ENOUGH FOR YA...

...THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS IS DOIN' TO THAT GREAT *WIFE* YA GOT.

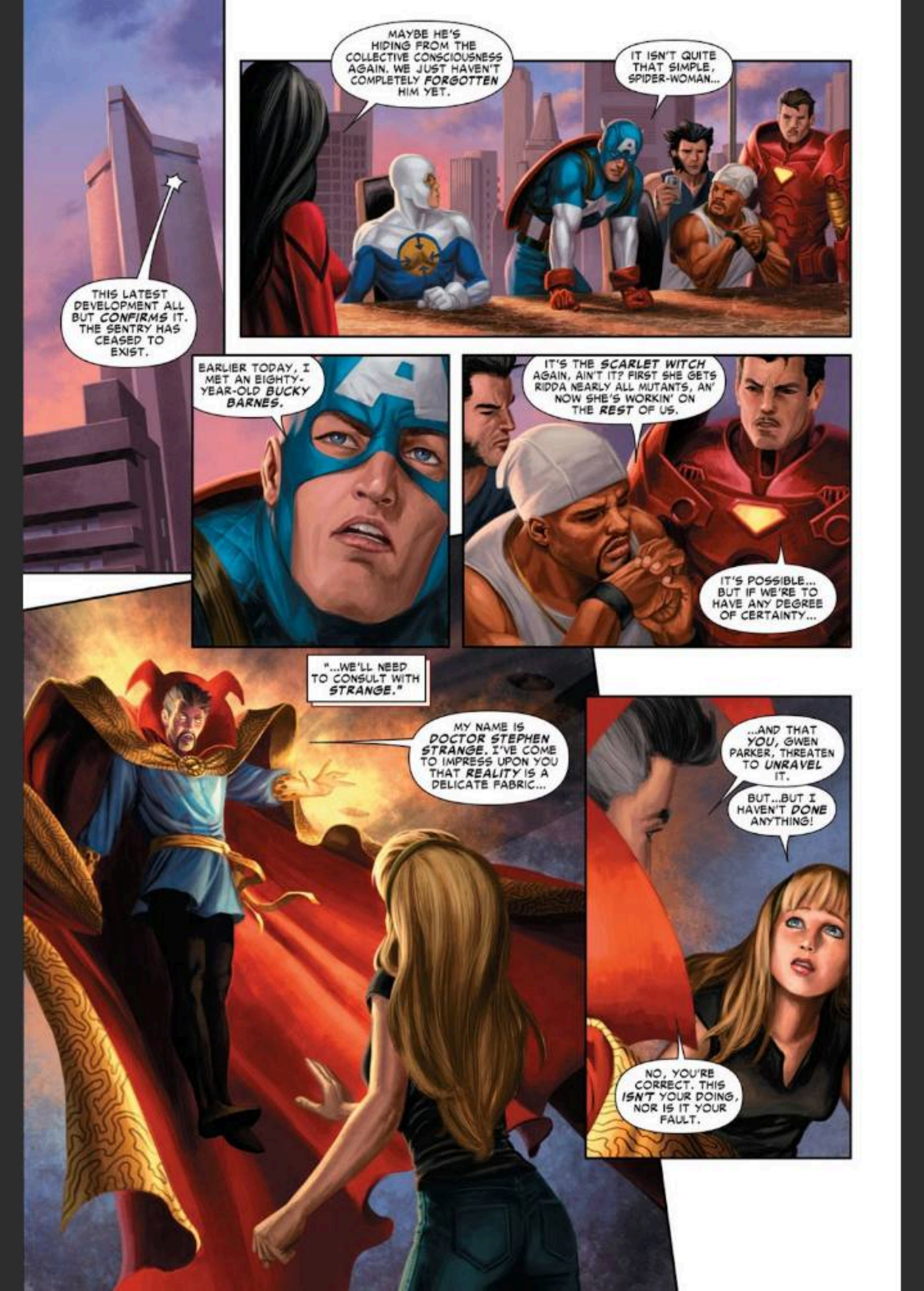
THINK ABOUT *MJ*.

MARY JANE.
THAT...THAT ACTRESS?!
MY GOD.
ALL OF IT...
IT'S ALL HAPPENING.
IT'S ALL HAPPENED.
JUST LIKE YOU WROTE IT IN YOUR DREAM JOURNAL.
OH, PETER...HOW COULD YOU WANT THIS SICK, TWISTED WORLD?
SPIDER-MA
THREAT OR MENACE?
DADDY'S GONE. AND BEN...
AND...
WE HAD A SON, PETER.
WE HAD A SON.
YOU.
YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.





ALL WE NEED IS A TEAM CAPTAIN.


MAYBE HE'S HIDING FROM THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN. WE JUST HAVEN'T COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN HIM YET.
IT ISN'T QUITE THAT SIMPLE, SPIDER-WOMAN...
THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT ALL BUT CONFIRMS IT. THE SENTRY HAS CEASED TO EXIST.
EARLIER TODAY, I MET AN EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD BUCKY BARNES.
IT'S THE SCARLET WITCH AGAIN, AIN'T IT? FIRST SHE GETS RIDDA NEARLY ALL MUTANTS, AN' NOW SHE'S WORKIN' ON THE REST OF US.
IT'S POSSIBLE... BUT IF WE'RE TO HAVE ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY...
"...WE'LL NEED TO CONSULT WITH STRANGE."
MY NAME IS DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE. I'VE COME TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THAT REALITY IS A DELICATE FABRIC...
...AND THAT YOU, GWEN PARKER, THREATEN TO UNRAVEL IT.
BUT...BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
NO, YOU'RE CORRECT. THIS ISN'T YOUR DOING, NOR IS IT YOUR FAULT.

THE WORLD YOU KNOW WAS MERELY A *CONSTRUCT*. THE COMBINED *WISH FULFILLMENTS* OF SEVERAL PEOPLE--YOUR HUSBAND AMONG THEM--MADE REAL.

A CONSTRUCT...?

A FORGERY. A LIE. IN TRUTH, YOU'VE LONG SINCE *PASSED*....

...AND PETER HAS MOVED ON.

HEY, BEAUTIFUL.

PETER, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE BE CODDLED. IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHUT ME *OUT* LIKE THIS, THEN I--

I'M AT MY WIT'S END, AND I DON'T KNOW IF--

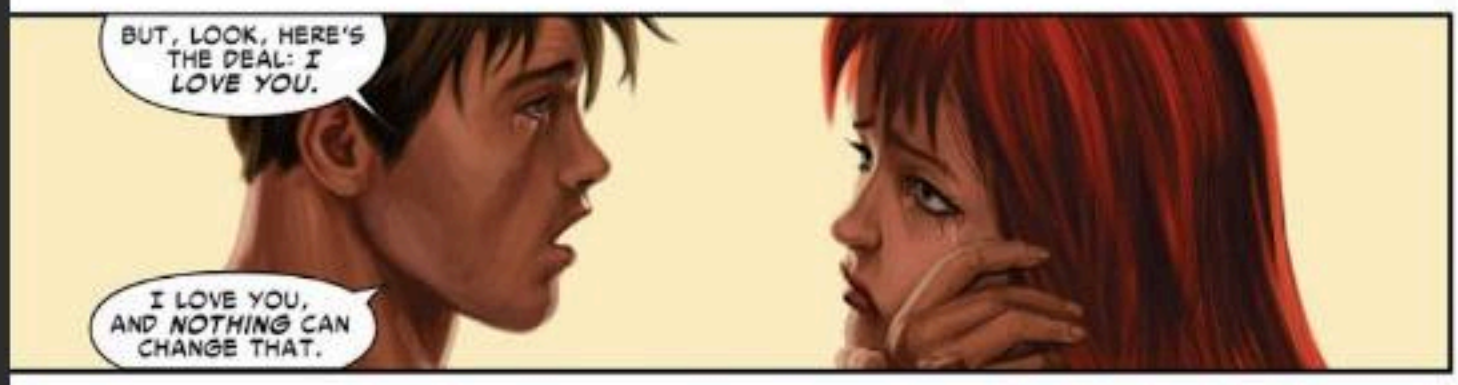
HEY. HEY, IT'S OKAY.

I'M READY TO TALK ABOUT IT.

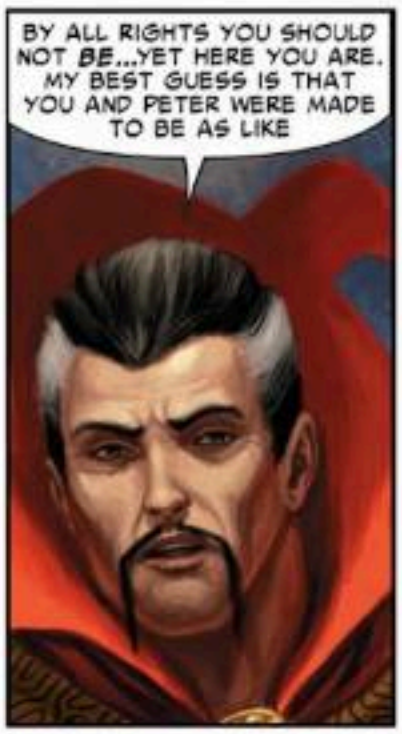
THE WORLD *CHANGED*, MJ. IT WAS...FOR A WHILE, EVERYTHING WAS DIFFERENT. MY PAST AND MY PRESENT AND I WAS--

UNCLE BEN WAS *ALIVE*. AND, AND I WAS WEALTHY AND *SUCCESSFUL* AND...

...I HAVEN'T EVEN REALLY *PROCESSED* IT YET. I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN...HOW I CAN *EXPLAIN* IT TO YOU...


BUT, LOOK, HERE'S THE DEAL: I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT.

THE CHANGES SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL WERE SUBTLE AT FIRST, BUT NOW THEY ARE GROWING EXPONENTIALLY MORE FREQUENT. AND SERIOUS.
I DON'T... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...


BY ALL RIGHTS YOU SHOULD NOT BE...YET HERE YOU ARE. MY BEST GUESS IS THAT YOU AND PETER WERE MADE TO BE AS LIKE

ENTANGLED ATOMIC PARTICLES. SEPARATE AND YET SO IMMUTABLE AS TO APPEAR TO STAND IN DEFIANCE OF THE VERY LAWS OF PHYSICS. PERHAPS

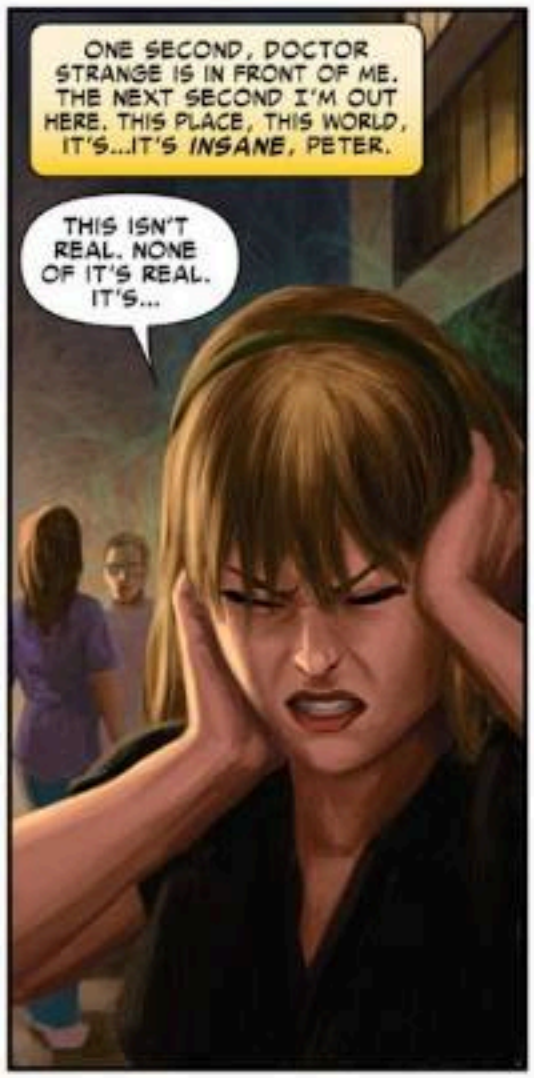
YOUR PROXIMITY TO PETER AT THE EPICENTER OF THE SCARLET WITCH'S REVERSION--COMBINED WITH YOUR STRONG EMOTIONS IN THAT MOMENT--SOMEHOW ALLOWED YOU TO REMAIN.

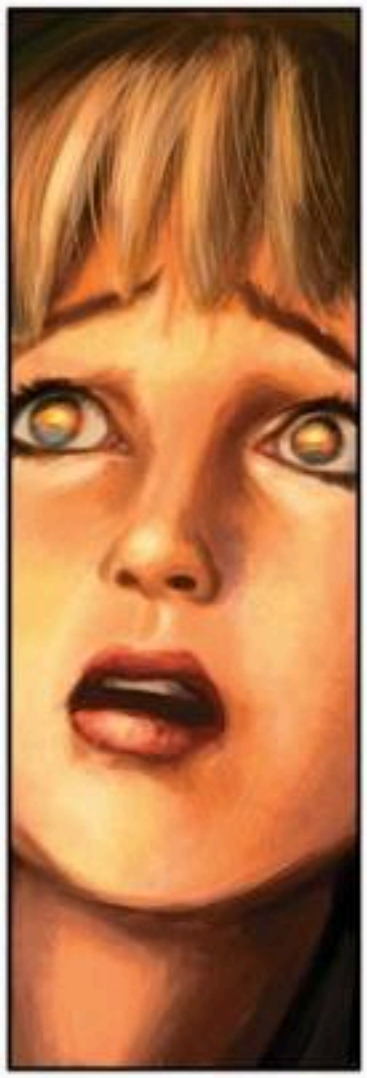
REGARDLESS, THIS IS ALL ACADEMIC.
GWEN...YOU ARE THE SOURCE. AND YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE MEANS THE END OF EVERYTHING.
N-NO...

NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE. IT'S ALL A TRICK, IT'S--
PLEASE, THE EXISTENCE OF EXISTENCE ITSELF IS AT STAKE--
NO!

IT ISN'T TRUE!
PETER!!

AAAAGH!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S--?
GET AUNT MAY. GET SOMEWHERE SAFE.
NOW.


ONE SECOND, DOCTOR STRANGE IS IN FRONT OF ME. THE NEXT SECOND I'M OUT HERE. THIS PLACE, THIS WORLD, IT'S...IT'S INSANE, PETER.
THIS ISN'T REAL. NONE OF IT'S REAL. IT'S...



OH GOD.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN. LIKE BEFORE.

LIKE GENOSHA.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

MY DEFENSES SHOULD HAVE WARNED US--!

OH, BOO HOO, RUST BUCKET.

HI THERE, CAP'N...

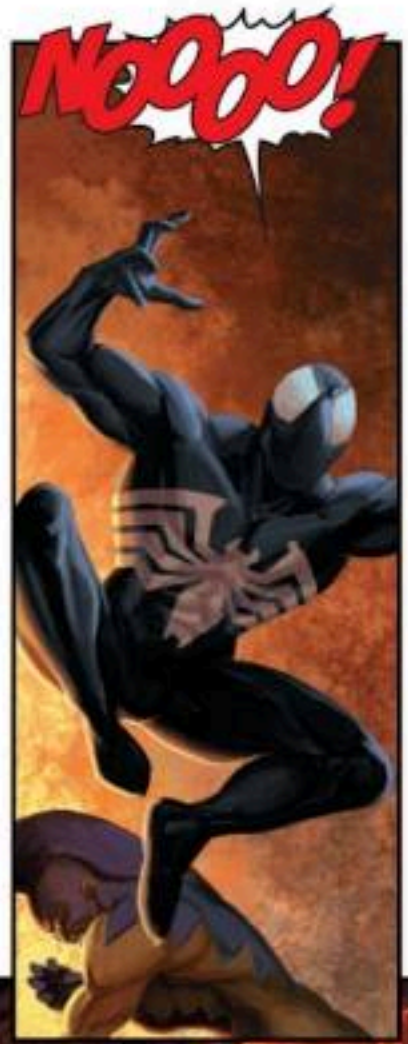
LIKE MY NEW FRIENDS, PETEY-PIE?

YEAH, CLASSY BUNCH.

MY AUNT! HAS ANYONE SEEN MY AUNT?!

OVER HERE, PARKER...

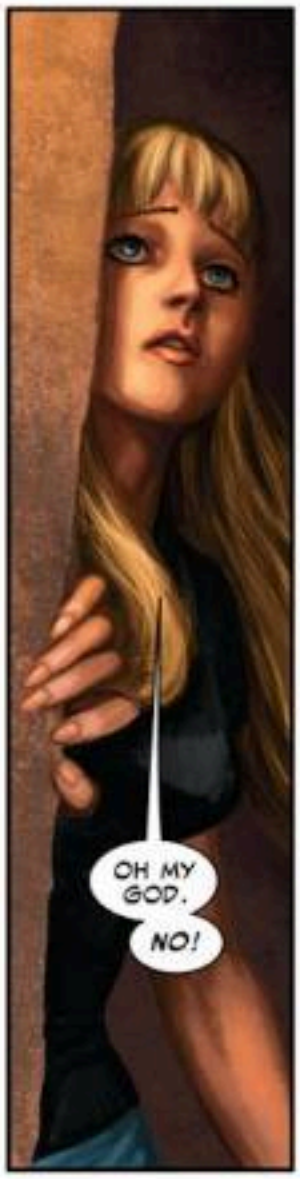
WE WERE JUST ENJOYING A LIGHT SNACK.


NOOOO!

DAMN YOU, VENOM!

AUNT MAY? PLEASE BE ALIVE.
PLEASE...

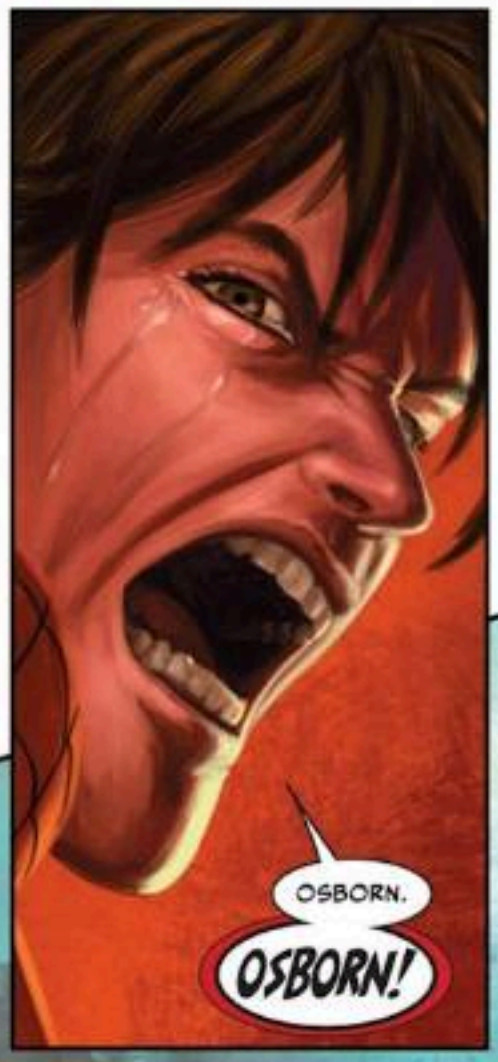
I'M SORRY, MAY. I'M SO SORRY...


OH MY GOD.
NO!

PETER!

PETER, LOOK--

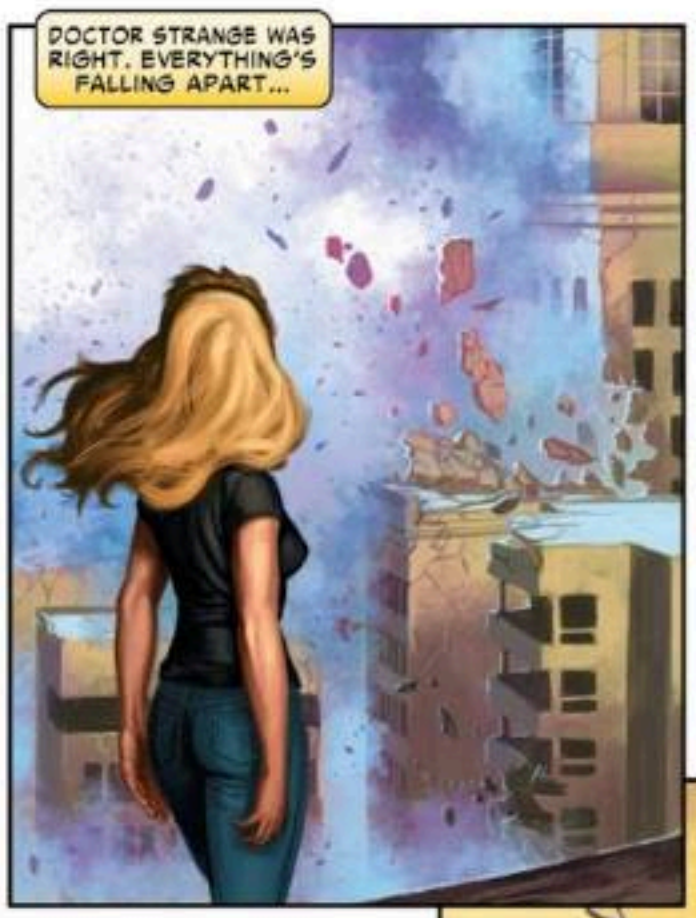
P.P.
OOPS. THAT WAS RATHER UNINTENDED.
NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING.

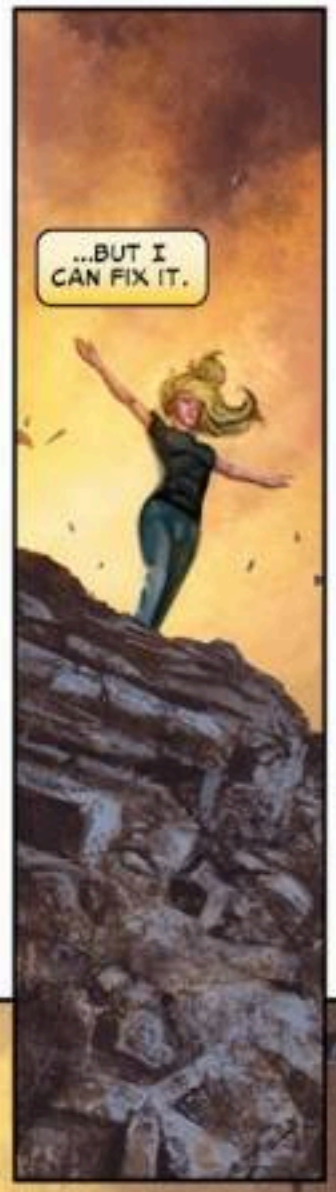

OSBORN.
OSBORN!

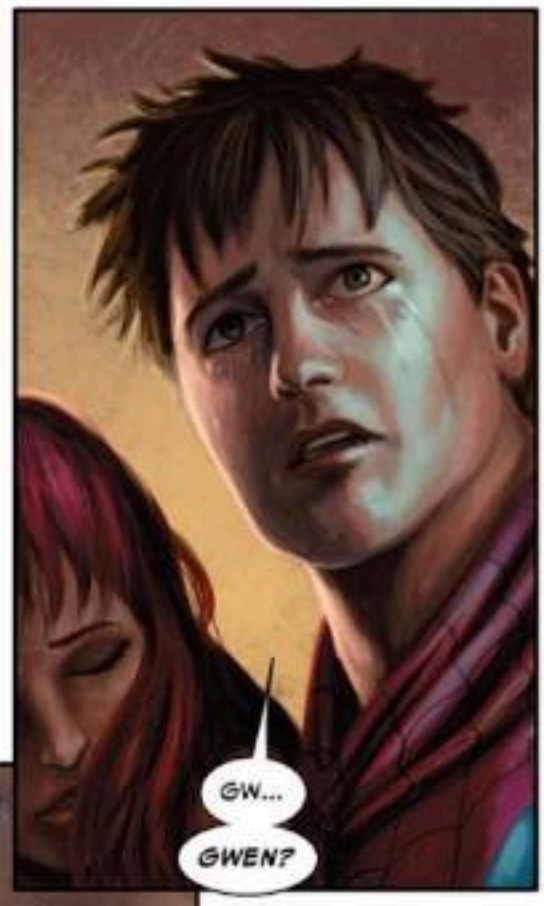
RRRRROUGH!
HAH!

DOCTOR STRANGE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU WERE RIGHT!
I DON'T WANT PETER TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS! WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO, PLEASE, DO IT NOW!

PLEASE... PLEASE...
STOP! SMILING!
OH, PETER... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
ALL THE HURDLES YOU FACED IN THIS LIFE, ALL THE TRAGEDY...
EVERY LAST DROP OF JOY YOU STILL HAD IS GONE NOW.
I TOOK IT FROM YOU.


DOCTOR STRANGE WAS RIGHT. EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART...


...BUT I CAN FIX IT.

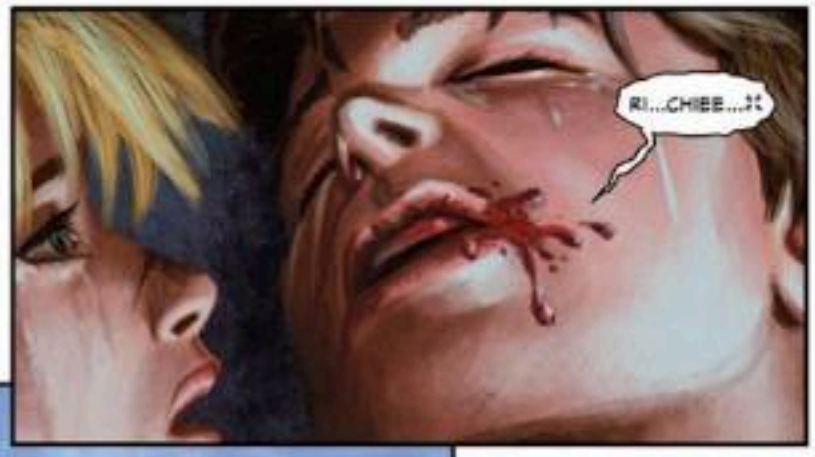

GW...
GWEN?

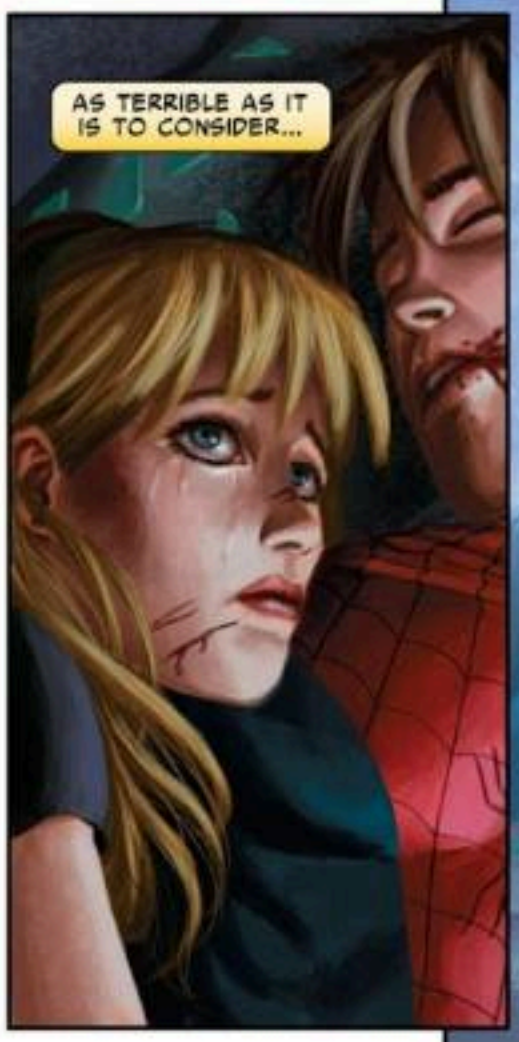
GWEN, NO!!

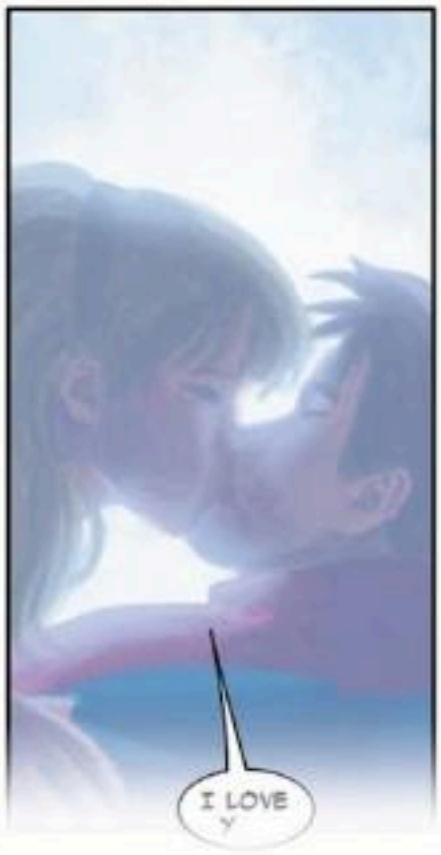
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT MY DEATH WILL SAVE YOU.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL WAKE UP IN OUR WORLD...
...OR IF I'LL EVER WAKE UP AGAIN.
BUT I HAVE TO TRY, PETER.

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU WOULD DO THE SAME FOR ME.

GWENNY...
...I GOT YA THIS TIME... I GOT...
...SAVED YOU...







PREVIOUSLY...

The Scarlet Witch, a mutant with the ability to alter reality, transforms the world in a bout of insanity.

In a mutant-dominated reality dubbed the House of M, Peter Parker's life is dramatically altered as Gwen Stacy -- Peter's girlfriend who was killed years ago by the Green Goblin -- is resurrected as his wife and mother of his child, Richie.

Enjoying the life of a celebrity and family man, Peter eventually cracks as the strain of the Scarlet Witch's manipulations and his memories of another life begin to affect his mind.

Driven to madness, Peter dons the disguise and personality of the villainous Green Goblin in a self-destructive effort to destroy his own life.

Overcoming insanity after attacking his loved ones, Peter retires to the countryside with his family -- until a call to arms by his fellow heroes, remembering the way reality should be, confront the Scarlet Witch and force her to restore reality to normal.

During this confrontation, Peter -- as Spider-Man -- is in the middle of the melee and is not present when Hawkeye tries to kill the Scarlet Witch.

BUT WHAT IF...

The Prodigal Family.
THIS WAS NOT A NORMAL DAY.
PETER, FOR GOODNESS SAKE...WILL YOU STOP RUNNING AROUND LIKE A CHICKEN WITHOUT A HEAD AND PLEASE TALK TO US?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVEN'T ALREADY HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY SINCE YOU VANISHED THIS MORNING.
ESPECIALLY NOW WITH ALL THOSE TV REPORTS COMING IN ABOUT MUTANTS LOSING THEIR POWERS...

MAY'S RIGHT, TIGER. I HOPE THIS ISN'T JUST ONE OF YOUR AVENGERS BUDDIES WE'RE HAVING OVER FOR DINNER. HUMOR ME AND TELL ME IT'S GEORGE CLOONEY AT LEAST.
IT'S NOT AN AVENGERS THING. WELL...NOT REALLY AN AVENGERS THING. SORT OF, BUT NOT REALLY...
LOOK, YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, LADIES.
THEN AGAIN, IF YOUR LAST NAME WAS PARKER, THERE WERE NO NORMAL DAYS ANYMORE.

RADIOACTIVE SPIDERS, EIGHT-ARMED SCIENTISTS, FLESH-EATING ALIEN SYMBIOTES AND THE LIKE TOOK CARE OF THAT.
BRRNNGGG!
I'LL GET IT!

BUT THIS DAY WAS DIFFERENT.
YOU KNOW, SO THERE'S LESS OF A...UM, SHOCK THAT WAY.

THIS DAY WAS THE DAY THAT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.
OR NOT.
OH MY--
IT CAN'T BE--

BECAUSE THIS WAS THE DAY SHE CAME BACK.
GWEN STACY.
AND SHE DIDN'T COME BACK ALONE.
HI, DADDY.
HEH. UM...WE'LL TALK OVER DINNER.

AND SO, TALK THEY DID, AS PETER TRIED HIS BEST TO EXPLAIN THE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THEIR CURRENT SITUATION...
...AND I ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... NO, SHE'S NOT QUITE OUR GWEN.
NOT THE GWEN YOU BOTH KNEW AND LOVED, ANYWAY. NOT THE GIRL NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS GREEN GOBLIN TOOK FROM US.
AND MAYBE NOT ANY KIND OF GWEN AT ALL, PETER, LIKE BEFORE.*
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ALL THE CRAZY SHAPE-SHIFTERS, ROBOTS AND GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE YOU ENCOUNTER ON A REGULAR BASIS.
BUT NOT THIS TIME. SHE'S GWEN ALL RIGHT. A QUICK CHECK-UP BY DR. STRANGE ABOUT AN HOUR AGO TOOK CARE OF THAT.
*MJ'S REFERRING TO THE EVENTS IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SINS PAST TPB.
"SHE'S JUST A DIFFERENT GWEN, THAT'S ALL... TAKEN FROM THE SAME ALTERNATE REALITY I WAS TRAPPED IN. AND BELIEVE ME--
"--I WANTED SO BAD OUT OF THAT PLACE, SO BAD TO GET BACK TO YOU GUYS, I EVEN ENDED UP SACRIFICING MYSELF TO COME HOME...
"...JUMPED IN FRONT OF A SPEEDING ARROW WITH THE SCARLET WITCH'S NAME ON IT--COURTESY OF HAWKEYE."
IT ALL WENT AS WELL AS EXPECTED, WITH PETER BELIEVING HE WAS GOING TO PULL OFF A MIRACLE.
THAT FOR ONCE SOMETHING IN HIS LIFE WOULD WORK ITSELF OUT.
LITTLE DID I KNOW I WOULDN'T BE MAKING THAT RETURN TRIP ALONE.
THAT HE COULD SMOOTH OVER THIS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION.
WELL, AREN'T WE THE LUCKY ONES. BUT HONESTLY, I REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT--
HE BELIEVED THAT ALL THE WAY, UNTIL...
A RING?!
WAIT A SEC...IS THAT... OH, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
YOU WERE ACTUALLY MARRIED TO THIS... PHOTOCOPY?!
MJ...
PHOTOCOPY? YOU KNOW, I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF ALL THE CHEAP SHOTS...
GWEN, DON'T--
CHEAP? YOU SHOULD BE USED TO CHEAP, SINCE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CHEAP IMPOSTER!
YOU KNOW, MJ, I DON'T CARE WHAT REALITY WE'RE IN, YOU ALWAYS COULD BE A REAL BI--
LADIES, PLEASE!
I DON'T ENVY YOU, PETER DEAR...
"I DON'T ENVY YOU AT ALL."

Something Evil This Way Comes...
WEEKS PASS, AND TO PETER'S DISMAY, THE SITUATION HAD NOT IMPROVED. AT ALL.
YES, HE REMAINED FAITHFULLY MARRIED TO MARY JANE. BUT EVEN SO, NOW HIS LIFE WITH HER WAS UNDER STRAIN, DUE GREATLY TO THE FACT PETER REFUSED TO NOT BE A PART OF GWEN AND RICHIE'S LIFE AS WELL.
A LITTLE LATE, AREN'T WE?

BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT CHOICE DID HE HAVE REALLY?
HOW COULD HE NOT SEE HIS SON?
HI DADDY!
HEY, SPORT.
YEAH, WELL. I SORT OF OVERSLEPT AGAIN. SORRY, GWEN.

FOR THAT MATTER--AND REALLY, WHAT ONE WOULD IMAGINE TO BE THE TRUE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM--HOW COULD HE NOT SEE...
...HER?
AFTER ALL...WASN'T GWEN ALWAYS "THE ONE"? SURE, HE LOVED MJ, BUT WOULD THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN AN MJ HAD GWEN LIVED? PERHAPS IT WAS A QUESTION PETER WAS AFRAID TO EVEN ASK HIMSELF.
THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING A LOT LATELY. YOU...SURE THAT'S ALL IT IS? THAT IT'S NOT MJ?

WHAT? NO, I...
LOOK, PETER... WE BOTH KNOW IT'S NOT WORKING LIKE THIS. SEEING YOU LIKE THIS...
BUT NOT REALLY SEEING YOU, YOU KNOW? NOT...

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR PETER, IT WAS A QUESTION GWEN HAD NO PROBLEM ASKING AT ALL...
...BEING TOGETHER...
GWEN... I...
DON'T...
HELLO.

AUNT MAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JARVIS TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING TO THE PARK TODAY, SO I FIGURED WHY NOT STOP OVER AND BUY MY FAVORITE LITTLE FELLOW SOME ICE CREAM.
GWEN, PLEASE BE A DEAR AND TAKE RICHIE FOR A CONE. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO MY NEPHEW FOR A MOMENT.
YES...OF COURSE.
YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN I WAS COMING IF YOU'D ACTUALLY PICK UP YOUR CELL.
I KNOW, I FORGOT IT AT HOME. I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY HEAD'S BEEN LATELY WITH EVERYTHING HAPPENING-- WITH MJ AND GWEN AND RICHIE.
BUT EVEN WITH THAT SAID, IT SURE IS GREAT TO HAVE THEM HERE...ISN'T IT, AUNT MAY?
PETER, DEAR...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY GO ON LIKE THIS. YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT. IT ISN'T FAIR TO GWEN OR MJ...
OR EVEN TO YOURSELF. IN THE END, I HATE TO SAY THIS, BECAUSE I LOVE BOTH OF THEM AS MUCH AS YOU DO BUT...
YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE.
BRRNG!
MARY JANE? WHAT...WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU CRYING, DEAR? WHAT...NO, I'M WITH PETER, HE'S--
AUNT MAY, GIVE ME THE PHONE.
MJ, WHAT'S THE...
YOU'RE TRYING TO REACH ME ALL MORNING? I FORGOT MY PHONE AT HOME. I... YES, I KNOW, REAL STUPID OF ME, BUT WHAT HAP--
OH MY GOD...

"I'LL BE RIGHT THERE."
IT HAPPENED A COUPLE MINUTES AFTER YOU LEFT. HE MUST'VE BEEN WATCHING.
WAITING.
THE OTHER AVENGERS ALL AWAY. YOU HERE BY YOURSELF. YEAH, IT SURE WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ATTACK. BUT STILL...

HE'S IN JAIL. IT JUST CAN'T BE... POSSIBLE.
PETER, PLEASE DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT POSSIBLE, OK? I THINK THE ONE THING WE'VE BOTH LEARNED IN OUR LIFE TOGETHER IS THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
EVEN THE RETURN OF THE GREEN GOBLIN.
I'M JUST LUCKY HE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL ME, BECAUSE IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED, HE COULD'VE DONE IT. EASILY.

NO, I THINK MORE THAN ANYTHING, PETER, HE WAS HERE TO INTIMIDATE ME. MOCK ME. HE KEPT GOING ON ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE BEING A JOKE. AND HERE'S THE THING...
...IS IT, PETER? IS HE RIGHT? BECAUSE I JUST HAVE TO ASK: WHILE THIS WAS ALL GOING ON... WHERE WERE YOU EXACTLY, PETER? AT THE PARK...
...WITH *HER*, WEREN'T YOU?
MJ, I...
...YES.

FIGURES. AND HERE'S YOUR CELL, BY THE WAY.
KEEP IN MIND YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ME, TOO.

MEANING HE COULDN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON MARY JANE. WHICH ONLY RAISED A BIGGER QUESTION: IF IT WASN'T OSBORN...

THEN WHO WAS IT?

Happy Anniversary
THEY SAY TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT DID JUST THAT.
COME ON. NO PEEKING.
AMAZINGLY, AS THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER SIGN OF THE GOBLIN AND WITH PETER AND MJ WORKING HARD AT REBUILDING WHAT HE TRIED TO TEAR APART, THEIR RELATIONSHIP DID EVENTUALLY REBOUND.
ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, AS WITH EVERYTHING IN PETER'S LIFE, THERE CAME A COST-- AND THE TIME HE SPENT WITH GWEN AND RICHIE WAS JUST THAT.
A TEMPORARY SACRIFICE, PETER TOLD HIMSELF, A NECESSITY IF HE HAD ANY HOPE OF SAVING HIS MARRIAGE.

HE ESPECIALLY WANTED THE DAY OF HIS WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE A MEMORABLE ONE...
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
PETER...YOU BOUGHT A CABIN?

A SUMMER HOME. ALWAYS WANTED ONE, EVEN IF I'LL OWE TONY FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS.
BUT THE BOX. THAT'S THE REAL SURPRISE, MJ.

YOU OPEN IT WHILE I GO PUT ON MY SWIM TRUNKS. IT'S WELL WORTH IT, I PROMISE.
OK, I GUESS I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR--
OH MY GOD.
IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT MARY JANE REALIZED THE HORRIBLE TRUTH. THAT PETER HAD BROUGHT MORE THAN JUST GWEN AND RICHIE BACK FROM HIS STAY IN THAT OTHER REALITY...

...HE BROUGHT A VERY SICK MIND BACK AS WELL.
SURPRISE.
THE GOBLIN...A PERSONA CREATED SUBCONSCIOUSLY TO COPE WITH THE HOUSE OF M, NOW REARING ITS UGLY HEAD HERE...
A CLEAR INDICATION THAT HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO WOMEN HE LOVED WAS MORE THAN PETER'S FRAGILE MIND COULD TAKE.
OH WAIT... THESE AREN'T MY SWIM TRUNKS, ARE THEY?
HEY, DON'T LEAVE NOW.
THE PARTY'S JUST STARTING!

YOU KNOW... I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS, BUT THIS IS WHERE I WOKE UP THE DAY I RETURNED. OR SHOULD I SAY WHERE GWEN, RICHIE AND I WOKE UP.

NESTLED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, IN A PLACE THAT MEANT SO MUCH TO US IN THAT OTHER REALITY. A PLACE WHERE WE WERE HAPPY.

THWIP!

IT WAS FATE'S WAY OF CORRECTING A COSMIC WRONG, BUT I COULDN'T SEE THAT AT THE TIME, TOO BLINDED AS I WAS BY MY RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU.

BUT NO MORE. NOW I'VE LEARNED THE ERROR OF MY WAYS.

SWSSH!

PETER, WAIT... YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF. WE CAN STILL TALK THIS OUT, OKAY?

NO MORE TALK!

WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE? WELL, SINCE YOU WOULDN'T, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU...

NO!

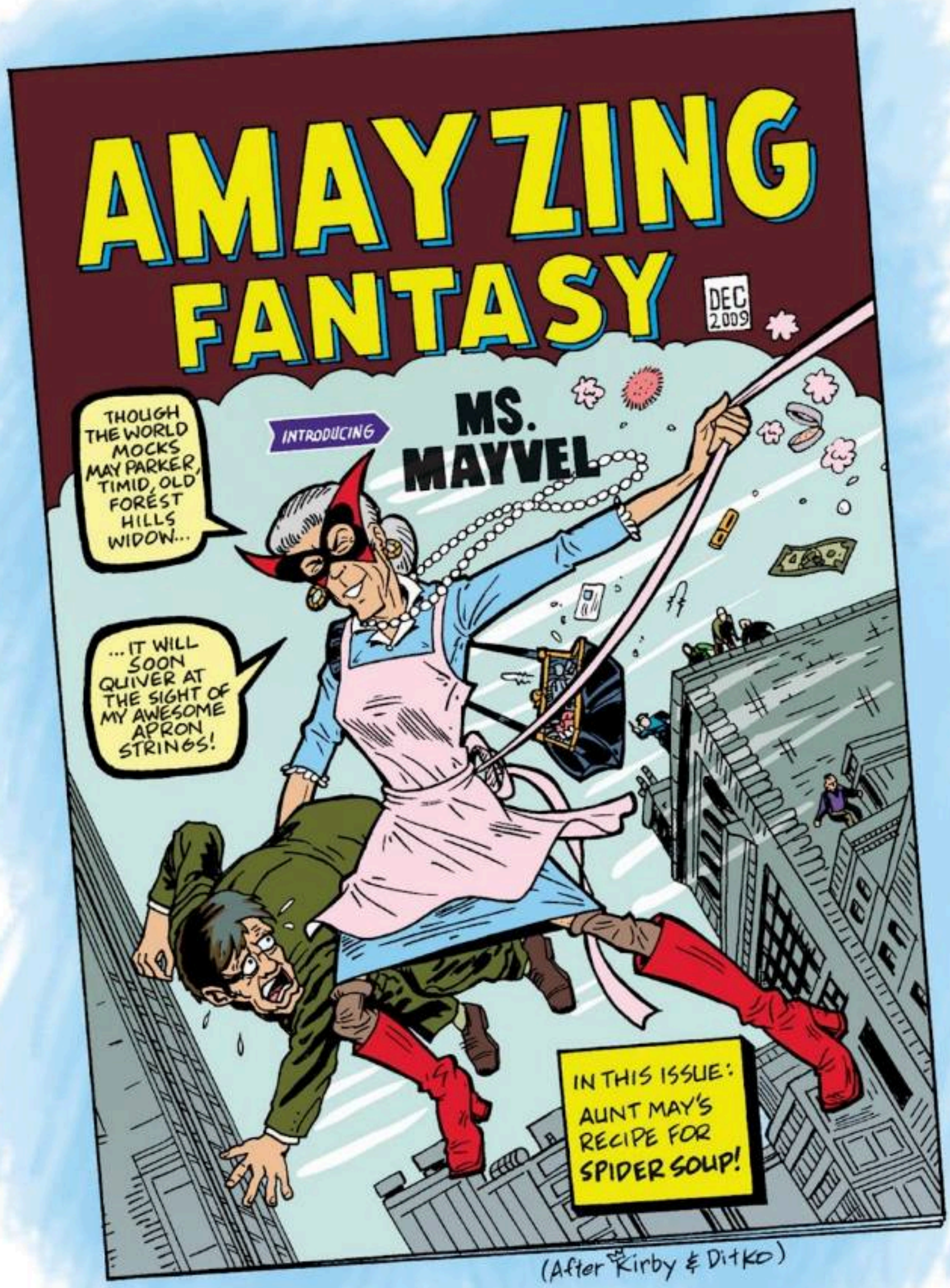
K-CHUNK!
AKKK--
MJ...I'M SO SORRY. I... KAF...
...NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU. YOU...KAF...
PETER, PLEASE. SAVE YOUR STRENGTH. WE NEED TO GET YOU TO A--
NO MATTER... KAF...WHAT I DID, I'VE ALWAYS... LOVED YOU, MJ.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.

ALWAYS...
AND SO PETER PARKER DIED...

HE DIED AS HE LIVED. A HERO.
A FLAWED HERO, A HERO THAT ALMOST ALLOWED HIS INSANE WORLD TO GET THE BEST OF HIM IN THE END, BUT A HERO NONETHELESS.
AND NOW AS I SIT HERE BLOGGING ABOUT HIS FINAL DAYS ON THIS DAY, THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT DECISION I NEED TO MAKE.
RICHIE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UM...NOTHING, MA. JUST...WORKING ON THE COMPUTER.
WELL, HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED ALREADY. WE HAVE TO PICK UP MAY SOON IF WE WANT TO GET TO THE CEMETERY IN TIME TO SEE YOUR FATHER TODAY.
ONCE I POST THIS, MY SECRET WILL BE OUT.
THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW ABOUT MY ABILITIES. AND ABOUT WHERE I GOT THEM FROM...
THWIP!
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. MY FATHER.
WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY BIG DECISION...DO I DO IT? DO I DARE TAKE ALL THIS A STEP FURTHER AND PICK UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF?
BECAUSE YES, WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. BUT THE THING IS, THE THING THAT NOBODY HAS EVER BOTHERED TO ASK...
IS THAT RESPONSIBILITY TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN TO HANDLE?
END...?

WHAT IF...

AUNT MAY GAINED SUPER POWERS IN "HOUSE OF M"?

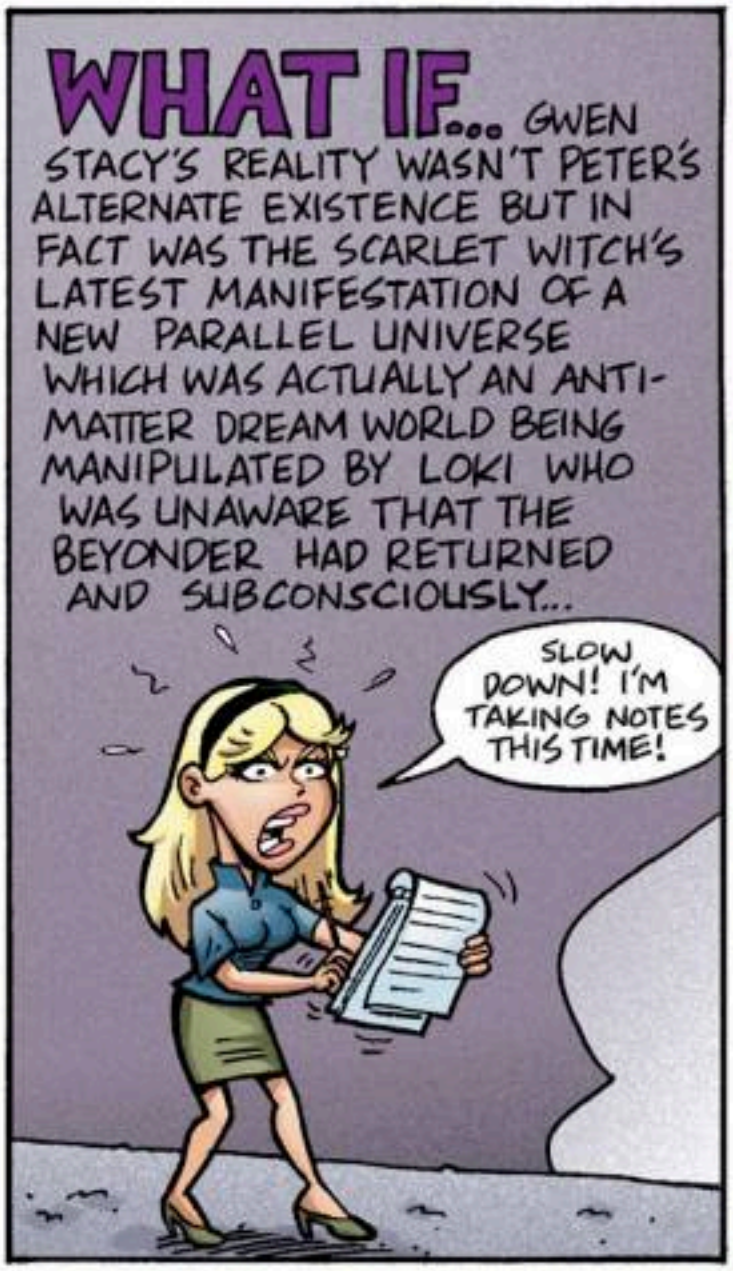


(After Kirby & Ditko)

WHAT IF... PETER SOLD TICKETS TO "THE CAT FIGHT OF THE CENTURY?"
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE BOTH HOT!
...and I ought a know!
wink
WHO'S THE WINNER AFTER DINNER?
MJ THE TIGER LADY
VS
GWEN "COUNT TO TEN"
STACY

WHAT IF... INSTEAD OF CHANGING COSTUMES AS REALITY WARPS, EVERYONE CHANGES LOYALTY TO THEIR SPORTS TEAMS?
I HOPE NEW ZEALAND WINS THE AMERICA'S CUP!
FOOEY ON MICHIGAN! I'M ROOTIN' FOR THE BUCKEYES!
ZAP!
SLASH
LET'S GO METS... NO-YANKEES! WAIT...

WHAT IF... THE GREEN GOBLIN'S NEW GLIDER CAME EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST SAFETY FEATURES?
THESE AIRBAGS ARE GONNA PUT A DAMPER ON MY IMPALINGS!


WHAT IF... GWEN STACY'S REALITY WASN'T PETER'S ALTERNATE EXISTENCE BUT IN FACT WAS THE SCARLET WITCH'S LATEST MANIFESTATION OF A NEW PARALLEL UNIVERSE WHICH WAS ACTUALLY AN ANTI-MATTER DREAM WORLD BEING MANIPULATED BY LOKI WHO WAS UNAWARE THAT THE BEYONDER HAD RETURNED AND SUBCONSCIOUSLY...
SLOW DOWN! I'M TAKING NOTES THIS TIME!

WHAT IF... WHEN GWEN LOGS ON TO OSCORP'S COMPUTER SHE GOES ON FACEBOOK?
A-A-A-A-AHEM!
HOLD ON..."Gwen is looking for Peter from the top of the Empire State Building...LOL!"

WHAT IF... RICHIE PARKER BRINGS HIS AIRPLANE INTO SCHOOL FOR "Show 'n' tell"?
SO MY DAD BROUGHT ME THIS WHEN MOM AND HIM MET IN THE PARK... HE SAID IT WAS HARD TO GET AWAY FROM HIS OTHER WIFE, BUT HE FIBBED AND...
UH-YES, THANK YOU, RICHIE... THAT'S ENOUGH...

WHAT IF... VENOM AND THE MASTERS OF EVIL BROKE INTO THE WRONG JAIL CELL?
HEY... YOU'RE NOT OSBORN!
WAIT... DON'T GO! HOW WOULD YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS LIKE TO TRIPLE YOUR INVESTMENT MONEY IN NO TIME?
I ♥ PONZI SCHEMES!
B.M.
P

GWENNY LANE
GWENDOLYN STACY... YOU TEAR THE TIMESPACE CONTINUUM RISKING COUNTLESS LIVES BY YOUR INTRUSION! FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, YOU MUST PERISH!
POOONT!
A GOOD OLD "KNEE-TO-THE-GROIN" WORKS NO MATTER WHAT REALITY YOU'RE IN!
Ooooog...
Son o' Spidey
YOUNG RICHARD PARKER CLUTCHES THE ICONIC MASK OF HIS DEAD FATHER..
HIS EYES WELL WITH TEARS...HIS CHIN QUIVERS...
HE DRAWS A SHARP BREATH...
UNCONTROLLABLY, HIS HEAD TILTS BACKWARDS...
HIS MOUTH GAPES OPEN...
IS THIS THE MOMENT HE ASSUMES THE MANTLE?...
Ha-Chooo!
HOOOOOONK!
PERHAPS NOT..
INDULGENTS
MICHAEL, THE WAY I READ THIS, IN THE SCARLET WITCH'S UNIVERSE YOU LIVE YOUR ULTIMATE FANTASY...
...YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DAVE?
YES! MY OWN SHOW AT THE GUGGENHEIM: "MANAK the MASTER!"
AHH... MY MEMOIR "Gallagher's Genius"-- NUMBER ONE ON THE BEST-SELLER LIST!
YEESH!... WHATEVER POSSESSED ME TO WORK WITH THESE TWO NUTJOBS AGAIN?
JUSTIN GABRIE
Managing Editor
MARVEL
SAY WHAT IDEAS